

Collier, Morgan

From: Lovingood, Christina
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Thiede, Kurt
Cc: Newton, Cheryl; Fischer, Timothy; Adler, Kevin; Pope, Janet; Rodriguez, Charles; Patterson, Leslie; Rolfes, Sarah; Levy, Eric; O'Donnell, Sean; Sheehan, Charles; Shields, Edward; Hanger, Eric; Christensen, Kevin; El-Zoghbi, Christine; Eyermann, Richard; Butler, Kathlene; Bartlett, Rashmi; Trynosky, Jill; Collier, Morgan
Subject: OIG Memo to Region 5 Regarding East Chicago Hotline Complaint
Attachments: OIG Memo to Region 5 on East Chicago 02-20-2020.pdf; Hotline Email RE_ Toxic Sunsurface Intrusion hazards unrecognized in East Chicago, Indiana - Fall 2019....pdf

Dear Regional Administrator Thiede,

Good morning. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Inspector General received a hotline complaint from (b) (6) a private citizen from Hebron, Indiana. (b) (6) reported that the EPA did not act upon concerns in the area of the USS Lead Superfund site. Attached is an OIG memo detailing the concerns raised by (b) (6) and some questions we have about the concerns. Please reply to our questions by March 23, 2020. The complaint, which contains personally identifiable information, is also attached.

Thank you,
Tina Lovingood

Tina Lovingood
Director, Land Cleanup and Waste Management Audits and Evaluations
Office of Audit and Evaluation
Office of Inspector General
202-566-2906

Collier, Morgan

From: Trynosky, Jill
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 1:21 PM
To: Collier, Morgan
Subject: FW: Toxic Sunsurface Intrusion hazards unrecognized in East Chicago, Indiana - Fall 2019...
Importance: High

Morgan, Hi. Can you also add this email exchange to the workpapers along with the other East Chicago hotline information and correspondence?

Thank you,

Jill

From: Lovingood, Christina <Lovingood.Tina@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 12:49 PM
To: Trynosky, Jill <Trynosky.Jill@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Toxic Sunsurface Intrusion hazards unrecognized in East Chicago, Indiana - Fall 2019...
Importance: High

Dear Jill, Please document (b) (6) reply in the wps.

Thank you!

Tina

Tina Lovingood
Director, Land Cleanup and Waste Management Program Evaluations
Office of Audit and Evaluation
Office of Inspector General
202-566-2906

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, November 23, 2019 11:36 AM
To: Lovingood, Christina <Lovingood.Tina@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Toxic Sunsurface Intrusion hazards unrecognized in East Chicago, Indiana - Fall 2019...
Importance: High

Hello Tina,

I do not have any concerns as they already know who is involved and active in the community at Region V... My concerns are with the lack of action by U.S. EPA – numerous visits, at least 5

requests to sample and do broader analysis to identify all contaminants present in the home by the resident, and still not one sample taken by U.S. EPA in over a year...!

(b) (6) informed me that U.S. EPA Region V staff visited (b) (6) basement on Wednesday November 20, 2019 and took pictures of (b) (6) basement floor and walls.

"But they never took any samples, water nor brown stuff, told me they had to talk to their water people and that they would get back with me."— (b) (6) November 20, 2019 4:34 pm

The foot-dragging by U.S. EPA Region V continues as does the chronic exposures and potential health effects in the community living on top of the USS Lead Superfund Site – especially were (b) (6) (b) (6) is concerned since all involved have known enough information to take conformation samples and undertake direct action to protect (b) (6) family's health since toxins were proven to be present in the home in August of 2019 and U.S. EPA region V has those test results since September 2019.

Sincerely: (b) (6)

From: Lovingood, Christina [<mailto:Lovingood.Tina@epa.gov>]

Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 11:00 AM

To: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Toxic Sunsurface Intrusion hazards unrecognized in East Chicago, Indiana - Fall 2019...

Hello (b) (6) I need to know if you have any concerns about us sharing your name, address, or hotline complaint with the agency. If you would like to remain anonymous, please let me know.

We will contact (b) (6) separately.

Thank you,

Tina

Tina Lovingood
Director, Land Cleanup and Waste Management Program Evaluations
Office of Audit and Evaluation
Office of Inspector General
202-566-2906

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 2:07 AM

To: Lovingood, Christina <Lovingood.Tina@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Toxic Sunsurface Intrusion hazards unrecognized in East Chicago, Indiana - Fall 2019...

Importance: High

Hello Tina,

My address is:

(b) (6)

Hebron, Indiana 46341

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) address is:

(b) (6)

East Chicago, Indiana 46312

(b) (6)

Also the [very](#) next day this story was broadcast about the same block of Alexander Street in East Chicago, Indiana: 'Workforce Houses In East Chicago To Be Built On EPA Superfund Site'...! See: [<https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/workforce-houses-in-east-chicago-to-be-built-on-epa-superfund-site>]

My concern of course is that the source(s) of toxic waste leaking into (b) (6) basement needs to be identified and completely & permanently cleaned up first before redevelopment occurs but all the emphasis seems to be on redevelopment as quick as possible and not ensuring a proper cleanup... There's money to be made! It's Redevelopment Palzooa – who cares if it's properly cleaned up or not!

The Calumet community of East Chicago, Indiana certainly needs and deserves the opportunities for new jobs and housing that redevelopment brings but not at the expense of public health because of improper cleanup of toxins... (b) (6)

From: Lovingood, Christina [<mailto:Lovingood.Tina@epa.gov>]

Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 11:03 AM

To: (b) (6) OIG WEBCOMMENTS; Trynosky, Jill; OIG.RiskCommunicationTeam

Subject: RE: Toxic Sunsurface Intrusion hazards unrecognized in East Chicago, Indiana - Fall 2019...

Dear (b) (6), Would you mind sharing your address or the specific address(es) of the homes shown in the photos?

Thanks,

Tina

Tina Lovingood
Director, Land Cleanup and Waste Management Program Evaluations
Office of Audit and Evaluation
Office of Inspector General
202-566-2906

Chugh, Alisha

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2019 11:57 PM
To: OIG.RiskCommunicationTeam
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: (b) (6) Written Comments on USS Lead Superfund Site -- Attn: OIG Risk Communication Team
Attachments: (b) (6) Yard 7-14-2019 .jpg; (b) (6) Sump Pipe 7-14-2019 .jpg; (b) (6) Sump Pit 7-23-2019 .jpg; 7-23-2019 Zone 3 Sump Discharge .jpg; Zone 2 Basement Seep One 7-14-2019 .jpg; Zone 2 Basement Seep Two 7-14-2019 .jpg; July 2019 CAMU Zone 1 and 2 .jpg; (b) (6) Dust Test Results 9-31-2017 .jpg
Importance: High
Categories: Follow-Up

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Office of Inspector General,
Attn: OIG Risk Communication Team,
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW,
Room 2416, Mail Code: 2460T,
Washington, D.C. 20460-0001."**

< OIG.RiskCommunicationTeam@epa.gov >

RE: (b) (6) Written Comments on USS Lead Superfund Site

Hello, these written comments on the USS Lead Superfund Site to the U.S. EPA Office of Inspector General are transcribed below for (b) (6) who lives on top of the USS Lead Superfund Site and does not have email available...

I ask (b) (6) when (b) (6) first learned about the USS Lead Superfund Site?

(b) (6) told me that it was in 2016 when (b) (6) received a letter from U.S. EPA Region V about the excavation of (b) (6) yard. This is also when (b) (6) was finally given the test results for (b) (6) yard's soil contamination. This also is four years after the Consent Decree for the USS Lead Superfund Site was made final...

Current conditions include a record high Lake Michigan lake level that's holding the adjacent unconfined water table of the Calumet Aquifer's groundwater at elevations greater than normal for this time of year combined with wet spring and early summer heavy precipitation that has undoubtedly created copious quantities of leachate from the numerous toxic waste disposal sites that proliferate the USS Lead Superfund Site, DuPont RCRA Corrective Action Site and surrounding areas.

People's basements are acting as de facto Leachate Sumps for the contaminated groundwater which has been documented as ranging in color from bright orange to dark ruddy orange-brown and also include black and/or oily sheen on water. Very fine sediments transported via groundwater seep into basements and sump pumps discharge this contaminated groundwater and its solid residues to surface water discharges within the Superfund Site...

One resident, (b) (6) had the dried residue from groundwater seeps in (b) (6) basement tested by U.S. EPA in 2017. The test results for (b) (6) basement were: "Lead concentration in fine dust was 920 ppm with a Lead Screening level in fine dust of 316 ppm and 17 ppm Arsenic concentration in fine dust with an Arsenic screening level in fine dust of 26 ppm." Furthermore, U.S. EPA did not find any evidence of Lead-based paint in this home after a "limited screening for lead-based paint..."

Soils within the USS Lead Superfund Site are naturally Quartz-based sand dunes and swale (linear wetlands) so native soils were well drained sandy and loamy not heavy silt or clay-based soils of less permeability. The Superfund Site and surrounding areas have been extensively filled with uncontaminated native dune sand to various solid wastes including some sites where toxic industrial waste was used such as slag from the USS Lead Blast Furnace.

Part of the problems many residents of the USS Lead Superfund Site are having is due to different backfill soil type characteristics and sod of different soil type characteristics like clay-based sod. It is obvious that different types of backfill soils and sod sources have been used over time in the USS Lead Superfund Site to anyone that has observed the remediation process.

Because the topography of the area is flat with little or no grade less permeable clay type soils tend to pond water in poorly graded and improperly compacted backfill soils that themselves may not match the soil type that was excavated. This can lead to increased funneling of water towards foundations and basements and also increase the amount of infiltration of groundwater (contaminated with toxic wastes) into homes... These types of hazards are not being recognized or communicated by U.S. EPA to the residents living on the USS Lead Superfund Site.

Please Find Eight Attached Photographs:

- 1) (b) (6) demonstrating tripping hazards in (b) (6) yard;
- 2) (b) (6) showing broken Sump Pump Discharge Pipe;
- 3) Castillo Sump Pit with Orange Residue and Oily Sheen on Groundwater;
- 4) Orange Groundwater Sump Pump Surface Discharge in Zone; 3
- 5) Orange Contaminated Groundwater seep "sediment volcano" in Zone 2 Basement;
- 6) Dark Brown Groundwater seep in Zone 2 Basement;
- 7) USS Lead Superfund Site Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) with former West Calumet Housing Complex (Zone 1) and Zone 2 in close proximity in the background;
- 8) (b) (6) 2017 household fine dust test results.

(b) (6) Hebron, Indiana 46341 (b) (6) >

WRITTEN COMMENTS OF (b) (6) ON USS LEAD SUPERFUND SITE

"My name is (b) (6) I live at (b) (6) East Chicago, In. Zone 3 Phone # (b) (6)

I would like to tell you about my experience with EPA.

In 2016 of late October they started digging my front yard and back but since they couldn't finish with the black dirt and grass they put a blanket of hay on top of the sand. I was told they would come back in 2017 and finish since it was already Nov. and it was snowing and also cause of rain the ground was not even.

So when they came back in March 2017 I let them know how the ground was very uneven. The people that were going to put the grass told me they knew what to do to the front and back yards.

Well they laid the sod down and water it for the amount of time they do, but when I started cutting the grass is when I noticed how uneven the yard was and also below the sidewalk.

I called "Gary" the person that was in charge. I told him about it and it took a long time before he said they were bringing a machine that had a roller and that it would take care of the problem, but it didn't work.

I kept complaining to Gary and he said his boss didn't want to fix it, but he was trying. I would tell him: "tell him to come and see and walk on it" – it's lumpy and not safe to walk on it.

Late in 2017 Gary came by and told me that he had to go out of the country to a different job but that he needed me to grade him on how well he did and if I was satisfied with what he had done so far.

I told him that I was happy with the flowers and greenery that they planted but I was not happy with the yards. I said I like you because you are a very charismatic and you seem to be a nice person so I will grade you a ten.

He was putting this on the paper he had and told me that they still had not finished the side of the house so he was going to put on the paper what needed to be done.

I told him to also put down about the yards, but he didn't say anything. He gave me the paper to sign – "bad move on my part."

In 2018 I would call Janet, Sara and Katherine they came and would tell me "I'm sorry, we will have to look at pictures and get back to you." They never came back or called.

I had Sara come this year in 2019. She came with a person named Charles Rodriguez. I showed them a sump pump discharge pipe that was broken from their work – this was never fixed.

I also showed them the front sidewalk that's breaking but they didn't say anything. I had them walk on the grass front of the house so they can see for themselves what I am talking about – also side and back yard. All I got is: "I'm sorry..."

I go to EPA meetings when they have them at Carrie Gosch School and have mentioned to them for the last two years with no results.

Please help me with these problems. (b) (6) I feel like no one wants to listen to me.

(b) (6)

July 23, 2019 (b) (6)

Collier, Morgan

From: Trynosky, Jill
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 4:04 PM
To: Collier, Morgan
Subject: FW: Request to share your information along with concerns related to waste material in your basement

Please add to AAW

From: Trynosky, Jill
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 4:03 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Lovingood, Christina <lovingood.tina@epa.gov>
Subject: Request to share your information along with concerns related to waste material in your basement

Dear (b) (6)

Good afternoon. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Inspector General (EPA OIG) recently received a hotline complaint about EPA Region 5's response to waste material leaking (or seeping) into the basement of your residence, located within Zone 2 of the USS Lead Superfund Site in East Chicago, Indiana.

The EPA OIG risk communication site team also heard from you regarding this issue during our visit to East Chicago in June.

Although EPA Region 5 may already have your contact information, do you have any concerns about the OIG sharing your name, address, or the hotline complaint regarding waste material leaking into the basement of your residence?

Please let me know.

If you have any questions and cannot reach me, please contact Tina Lovingood, Director of Land Cleanup and Waste Management Program Evaluations at 202-566-2906 or lovingood.tina@epa.gov.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jill Trynosky

Jill Trynosky
Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Audit and Evaluation, Office of Inspector General
email: trynosky.jill@epa.gov
telephone: (202) 566-2718
website: www.epa.gov/oig

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Subscribe to OIG [Email Updates](#)
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OIG Hotline Documentation for the USS Lead/East Chicago Superfund Site

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Prepared/Completed by: Morgan Collier	9/11/2020	
Reviewed by: Roopa Mulchandani	10/14/20	[x]: I reviewed this WP and found it satisfactory. (No comments were provided.) []: I reviewed this WP and found it satisfactory. I also included comments in a dark red colored font . []: All comments have been resolved.
Edited by:		

Purpose: To summarize documentation the OIG received in regards to concerns related to the USS Lead Superfund site in East Chicago, Indiana with an emphasis on risk communication activities occurring at the site [Auditor's Note: information in this work paper and in supporting documents may contain personal identifiable information (PII)].

Project Guide Step # : 41

Source(s):

#	Description/Title	Source Document
1	Source 1-Email Request to Share Information	Link: Source 1-Email request to share information.pdf
2	Source 2-Response to Email Request to Share Information	Link: Source 2-Response to Hotline Request to Sharing Information.pdf
3	Source 3-Email Exchange	Link: Source 3-Email Exchange Btwn Lovingood and (b) (6) .pdf
4	Source 4-Email to Region 5	Link: Source 4-Email to R5 Regarding East Chicago Hotline Complaint 2.20.20.pdf
5	Source 5-OIG Email to Region 5	Link: Source 5-OIG Memo to Region 5 on East Chicago 02-20-2020.pdf
6	Source 6-Hotline Email	Link: Source 6-PII-Hotline Email RE Toxic Subsurface Intrusion hazards unrecognized in East Chicago Indiana.pdf

Scope: The details section gives an overview of the key points from the concerns received, as it relates to the USS Lead Superfund site.

Conclusion(s):

- 1.) A private citizen expressed concerns to the EPA OIG regarding the USS Lead Superfund site related to human health risks and cleanup activities (See Details Source [2a](#), Source [3e](#)).
- 2.) Permissions to use two private citizens names/addresses/other information in the hotline were provided to the OIG (See Details Source [5 e. i-v](#), Source [6 b-v](#)).
- 3.) The hotline complaint was referred to the Office of Audit and Evaluation because of the ongoing assignment related to the USS Lead site. Further, the concerns and questions were forwarded and a reply was requested of EPA Region 5 (See Source Details Source [5 c-d](#)).

Details:

- 1.) **Source 1-Email Request to Share Information**
 - a. Email from the EPA OIG to a private citizen requesting permission in using the private citizen's name/address/hotline complaint regarding waste material leaking into the basement of their residence (Source 1, Page 1, Paragraph 3).
- 2.) **Source 2-Response to Email Request to Share Information**

- a. Email from the private citizen to the EPA OIG granting permission in using their name/address/hotline complaint regarding waste material leaking into the basement of their residence (Source 2, Page 1, See response highlighted in yellow).

3.) Source 3-Email Exchange

- a. Emails between Tina Lovingood (Director of Land Cleanup and Waste Management Program Evaluations at EPA OIG) and (b) (6) (private citizen)
- b. Emails begin with Tina asking (b) (6) to share addresses of homes that are shown in photos that (b) (6) sent to her (Source 3, Page 3, Bottom of Page).
- c. (b) (6) provides two addresses in (b) (6) follow-up email and wrote about (b) (6) concerns regarding leaking toxic waste and public health (Source 3, Page 3, Top of the Page and Paragraphs 1-2).
- d. Ms. Lovingood wrote (b) (6) back asking if (b) (6) had any concerns with the sharing of (b) (6) name, address, or hotline complaint with the agency. She also stated that the OIG would contact the other citizen separately for permissions (Source 3, Page 2, Halfway down the page).
- e. (b) (6) responded that (b) (6) had no concerns with the sharing of (b) (6) information provided above (Source 3, Page 1, Bottom of Page).
- f. In addition, (b) (6) described some concerns (b) (6) had: lack of action by US EPA- numerous visits, at least 5 requests to sample and do broader analysis to identify all contaminants present the home by the resident, and still not one sample taken by the US EPA in over a year. (b) (6) stated that the other resident told (b) (6) that Region 5 visited (b) (6) basement November 20, 2019 and took pictures of the basement floor and walls. However, EPA didn't take samples and said they had to talk to their water people and they would get back to (b) (6) (b) (6). (b) (6) expresses concerns that there are potential health effects (Source 3, Page 1, Bottom of Page; Page 2, Summary of Paragraphs 1-4).

4.) Source 4-Email to Region 5

- a. This email exchange is between Tina Lovingood and Regional Administrator Kurt Thiede (EPA Region 5) regarding the hotline complaint from (b) (6) (private citizen) (Source 4, 1st Sentence).
- b. The email describes the hotline contents and that the citizen states that EPA did not act upon concerns in the area of the USS Lead Superfund site (Source 4, 2nd Sentence).
- c. The OIG memo detailing concerns and some questions were attached to the email and it was requested that a response be provided by March 23, 2020 (Source 4, Sentences 3-4).

5.) Source 5-OIG Email to Region 5

- a. Memo dated February 20, 2020 from Tina Lovingood to Kurt Thiede, on the subject of a hotline complaint regarding potentially unaddressed contamination at USS Lead Superfund site (Source 5, Page 1, Top of Page).
- b. Hotline complaint from (b) (6) (private citizen) reported that the EPA did not act upon concerns which included: (1) requests made by a resident in Zone 2 of the site that the EPA test for contaminated material seeping into their basement,

(2) known basement flooding and subsurface intrusion of contaminated groundwater and toxic sediment within the site, (3) known lead contamination in two locations located one miles south of the site. (b) (6) also stated (4) several homes throughout the site have been confirmed as having contaminated dust (Source 5, Page 1, Paragraph 1, List 1-4).

- c. This hotline was referred to our office (office of audit and evaluation) for review because of an ongoing assignment that included the USS Lead Superfund site, however some of the concerns are outside of the scope and the office is thus referring this complaint to Region 5 (Source 5, Page 1, Summary of Paragraph 2).
- d. The Office of Audit and Evaluation request Region 5 to answer concerns and questions that are listed in the memo (Source 5, Page 1, paragraph 3):
- e. Below are a summary of concern areas in the memo (see memo for list of questions):
 - i. The OIG understands that a private citizen requested that Region 5 test the sludge in (b) (6) basement and according to the complaint and in news media at a public meeting it was the third time that (b) (6) had asked for EPA to test (b) (6) basement. According to the complaint, EPA did not take action and the individual sought independent testing (Source 5, Page 1, Paragraph 4)
 - ii. Test results sent to EPA by another individual showed an arsenic level of 203 parts per million, however it took EPA a month to respond. Concerns about young children living at the home (Source 5, Page 2, Paragraph 1).
 - iii. Members of the community are concerned about subsurface intrusion of toxic contaminated ground water and basement flooding, however the complaint states EPA is not investigating these concerns (Source 5, Page 2, Summary of Area #2).
 - iv. The complaint alleges that the State of Indiana and EPA found lead levels above 400 ppm in two areas near USS Lead and that there has been no proper investigation or informing of the residents of these two communities (Source 5, Page 2, Summary of Area #3).
 - v. The complaint states that several homes through the USS Lead site have been confirmed as having toxic contaminated dust (Source 5, Page 3, Summary of Area #4).
- f. OIG requests to have a written response to the action taken or planned to address the concerns listed within 30 days (Source 5, Page 3, Last Paragraph).

6.) Source 6-Hotline Email

- a. Email is from private citizen (b) (6), on the subject of “toxic subsurface intrusion hazards unrecognized in East Chicago, Indiana-Fall 2019” (Source 6, Page 1, Top of the Page).
- b. The complaint brings up concerns that toxic subsurface intrusion hazards are not recognized, being questioned by Region 5, and are not being properly investigated or risk of exposure communicated to residents living on the USS Lead site (Source 6, Page 1, Paragraph 1).

- c. The complaint believes the information is relevant to the current ongoing project and thinks a separate investigation into Region 5 and the Responsible Parties Superfund process of Zone 2 at the site ([Source 6, Page 1, Paragraph 2](#)).
- d. The complaint describes how the three zones were divided historically, and mentions that Zone 2 was left out of the cleanup agreement between the Responsible Parties even though removals took place in areas which later became Zone 2, according to the complaint ([Source 6, Page 1, Paragraphs 3-4](#)).
- e. The complaint states that a Zone 2 resident has requested Region 5's help in testing their basement. However, the complaint states that there has been a year long delay. The complaint mentions that sediment containing Arsenic as high as 203 ppm within a home located on the USS Lead site ([Source 6, Page 1, Paragraphs 5](#)).
- f. At a Region 5 Superfund site meeting November 17, 2018 (b) (6) said (b) (6) was asking for a third time for EPA to test (b) (6) basement/put in writing why they were refusing to test it ([Source 6, Page 1, Paragraph 5](#)).
- g. According to the complaint, there wasn't a Zone 2 plan until after Flint, Michigan. The complaint states 2019 is when the Emergency Administrative Orders by US EPA to the Responsible Parties to conduct removal activities in Zone 2 occurred ([Source 6, Page 1, Paragraph 6](#)).
- h. According to the complaint, East Chicago, Indiana has an established cancer rate of 310 in 1,000,000 when 1 in 1,000,000 is an acceptable risk by US EPA ([Source 6, Page 1, Paragraph 7](#)).
- i. According to a source the complaint cited, the US EPA Region 5 considers this site a high-priority potential EJ area of concern ([Source 6, Page 1, Paragraph 8](#)).
- j. The complaint lists citations that the USS Lead site was the highest ranking in Region 5 under the National Corrective Action Prioritization System, was proposed for the National Priority List in 1987, and was listed on the NPL in 2009 ([Source 6, Page 1, Paragraph 9](#)).
- k. The complaint writes concerns about the Zone 2 demographics as being the "poorest and highest percent minority population within the USS Lead Superfund Site" and writes concerns about "environmental racism" ([Source 6, Page 1, Paragraph 10-11](#)).
- l. The complaint list actions they believe are not being taken by the US EPA to protect public health ([Source 6, Page 2, Paragraph 5, List 1-5](#)):
 - i. Known off-site sales of slag/smelter waste
 - ii. Known use of contaminated soil/smelter waste for construction backfill in the area of the site
 - iii. Known incidents of buried subsurface wastes and plant debris underground within the site and/or Calumet Aquifer
 - iv. Known frequent and/or seasonal basement flooding within the site
 - v. Known subsurface intrusion of contamination groundwater and toxic sediment into residents' homes on the site

- m. The complaint lists several dates where they believe the State of Indiana, US EPA, City of East Chicago, and Responsible Part have done investigations (Source 6, Page 1, Paragraphs 6-8).
- n. The complaint states that basement flooding is basement flooding by contaminated groundwater and/or combined sewer system frequently occurs at the site and is at a record high groundwater level. Lake Michigan is hydraulically connected to the Calumet Aquifer beneath the Superfund Site (Source 6, Page 1, Paragraphs 11).
- o. The complaint states that US EPA has confirmed toxic contaminated dust in several homes within the Superfund site but does not test adjacent homes that aren't apart of the current contaminated soil removal actions (Source 6, Page 1, Paragraph 12).
- p. The complaint states that US EPA has confirmed a Drinking Water Quality issue for lead in drinking water in several homes within the site due to lead service lines/home plumbing containing lead (Source 6, Page 1, Last Paragraph).
- q. The complaint states that there has not been a proper investigation or informing of two communities one mile away from the Superfund site, where sampling has been done and high levels of contamination have been found (Source 6, Page 1, Paragraph 2).
- r. The complaint states that the community has not been involved in the current groundwater investigation. In addition, its states that the sampling and testing does not include any sediment sampling within the Calumet Aquifer (Source 6, Page 3, Paragraph 3).
- s. Article (Chicago Tribune) from November 14, 2019 "East Chicago man says EPA has been slow to test the rust-colored sludge in his basement for toxins" (Source 6, Page 3, Last Paragraph).
 - i. Article states that the private citizens ((b) (6)) home recently tests positive for a variety of dangerous toxins (Source 6, Page 4, Paragraph 1).
 - ii. The article states that the private citizen has been unable to get the EPA to test his basement for toxins despite informal assurances a multiple meetings (Source 6, Page 4, Paragraph 4).
 - iii. Results from an independent lab showed that the sample could contain several heavy metals, to include arsenic. The citizen said that EPA contacted the lab to question the results but did not test it themselves (Source 6, Page 4, Paragraph 5).
 - iv. The citizen lives there with two school-aged grandchildren (Source 6, Page 4, Last Paragraph).
 - v. EPA states in the article that they have been in contact with the citizen and that they have arranged a meeting in the near future (Source 6, Page 5, Paragraph 3).
 - vi. Results that came back from Brookside Laboratories showed high levels of calcium, iron, manganese; and reported a presence of antimony, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead and zinc. One sample came back with 203 mg/kg of arsenic (Source 6, Page 5, Paragraphs 8-9).

- vii. In November 2018, the private citizen told EPA at a meeting that he wanted the water in his basement tested, knowing that the soil outside his home is contaminated (Source 6, Page 6, Paragraph 2).
- viii. An EPA Remedial Project Manager stated that most of the basement testing was in Zone 3 (about half tested showed high levels of lead). The RPM stated she would get the citizens information to see if they extend the sampling and can test (b) (6) basement (Source 6, Page 6, Paragraph 3).
- ix. According to the article, (b) (6) told EPA again months later about (b) (6) basement and they asked for the lab results and methodology (Source 6, Page 6, Paragraph 4).
- x. According to the article, the EPA wrote (b) (6) on September 27 stating that (b) (6) could call them so that they could further assess (b) (6) basement. In addition, a statement reads that as to the date of the letter EPA hasn't been provided with any requested information and the no owner of any property investigated has contacted EPA (Source 6, Page 6, Paragraph 5-6).
- xi. According to the article (b) (6) sent the results to EPA, and a month later the results were disputed (Source 6, Page 6, Paragraph 7-11).
- xii. After the initial call, EPA didn't call back about the results according to the source (Source 6, Page 6, Paragraph 12).
- t. Article from NWI Life, DuPont Site excerpt
 - i. According to the article, an investor is looking at 400 acres in East Chicago (Source 6, Page 7, Paragraph 4, 1st Sentence).
 - ii. The article states that the companies are working to keep the community involved in every aspect of the plan (Source 6, Page 7, Paragraph 6).
- u. The complaint writes that 127 tons of Arsenic are on the DuPont site and that people are living in areas in close proximity to hot spots (Source 6, Page 7, Paragraph 10, Under "Note").
- v. The complaint states that toxic waste is left onsite under the surface of the Calumet aquifer and expresses concerns that is in close proximity to residents' homes within the Superfund Site (Source 6, Page 7, Paragraph 11, Under "Note").

From: (b) (6)
To: OIG.WEB COMMENTS; Lovingood, Christina; Trynosky, Jill; OIG.RiskCommunicationTeam
Subject: RE: Toxic Subsurface Intrusion hazards unrecognized in East Chicago, Indiana - Fall 2019...
Date: Sunday, November 17, 2019 12:09:06 PM
Attachments: ATT00001.txt
Importance: High

Hello, I am sending you recent information concerning contamination issues in East Chicago, Indiana that involve documented toxic Subsurface Intrusion hazards that are not recognized, are being questioned by U.S. EPA Region V, and certainly are not being properly investigated or risks of exposure communicated to the residents living on the USS Lead Superfund Site... (See Newspaper Article Below)

Not only is this information relevant to the US EPA's Office of Inspector General's Risk Communication Team and its examination of Risk Communication at the USS Lead Superfund Site but I would like to respectfully request that the US EPA Office of Inspector General seriously consider conducting a separate investigation into the constant sleight by U.S. EPA Region V and the "Responsible Parties" of Zone 2 in the Superfund process at the USS Lead Superfund Site in East Chicago, Indiana.

As you know the Residential area of the USS Lead Superfund Site was a single Zone until the 2012 Consent Decree divided that single Zone into three zones and completely left Zone 2 out of the cleanup under the agreement between the "Responsible Parties" and U.S. EPA.

This occurred even though high levels of toxic contamination were well known to U.S. EPA and a small number of emergency removals had already taken place previously at properties in the Superfund Site which later became Zone 2 under the Consent Decree.

Now we have a Zone 2 resident requesting the U.S. EPA Region V's help and repeatedly requesting for testing of his basement with literally over a year long delay in U.S. EPA Region V investigating a gross Subsurface Intrusion of contaminated groundwater laden with toxic sediment containing Arsenic as high as 203 ppm within a home located on the USS Lead Superfund Site.

A basement that U.S. EPA Region V Remedial Project managers have stated they visited on at least two occasions as documented in video tape of a U.S. EPA Region V USS Lead Superfund Site meeting November 17, 2018 when (b) (6) (b) (6) said that (b) (6) was asking for the third time for EPA to test (b) (6) basement or put in writing why they were refusing to test it.

There was no cleanup planned for Zone 2 until national attention was focused first on Flint, Michigan and then East Chicago, Indiana concerning toxic Lead contamination. That attention and embarrassment over the fact that there was no cleanup plan for Zone 2 lead to Emergency Administrative Orders by U.S. EPA to the "Responsible Parties" to finally conduct removal activities in Zone 2 in starting in 2019.

East Chicago, Indiana, has a polluted environment that with an established cancer risk of 310 in 1,000,000 when 1 in 1,000,000 is considered an acceptable risk by U.S. EPA.

East Chicago, Indiana, is a recognized Environmental Justice (EJ) community. U.S. EPA "...Region 5 considers this site a high-priority potential EJ area of concern."

The USS Lead Superfund Site was: "...the highest ranking in Region 5 under the National Corrective Action Prioritization System and it was proposed for the National Priority List (NPL) in 1987." "EPA listed the USS Lead site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 2009."

How does all that square with the demographic facts that Zone 2 created under the Consent Decree by U.S. EPA and the "Responsible Parties" is the poorest and highest percent minority population within the USS Lead Superfund Site?

This is not Environmental Justice this is clear bias by the "Responsible Parties" and U.S. EPA Region V and looks a lot more like Environmental Racism to me.

Something needs to be done to protect East Chicago, Indiana residents from toxic Subsurface Intrusion hazards by severely contaminated groundwater and toxic wastes buried within the Calumet Aquifer itself in the Calumet community of East Chicago, Indiana...

U.S. EPA's Superfund Program is suppose to protect people from toxic hazards such as these and prevent toxic exposures and the suffering that results from such contamination.

I am, as a concerned citizen, asking for your help in this matter to establish the facts and expose truths for the residents that are living on top of the USS Lead Superfund Site and having to live with constant exposures to toxic pollutants in their community and homes.

Why is U.S. EPA Region V not seriously investigating what concerns the residents are communicate to them including but not limited to: Buried Wastes, Basement Flooding, Recontamination, and Subsurface Intrusion of toxic contaminated groundwater?

Why are actions not being taken by U.S. EPA to protect public health concerning the:

- 1) known off-site sales of Slag and smelter wastes from the Lead smelting Blast Furnace at the USS Lead Refiner;
- 2) known use of contaminated soil and smelter waste for construction backfill in the area of the Superfund Site;
- 3) known incidents of buried Subsurface Wastes and Plant Debris underground within the Superfund Site and/or Calumet Aquifer;
- 4) known frequent and/or seasonal Basement Flooding within the Superfund Site;
- 5) known Subsurface Intrusion of contaminated groundwater and toxic sediment into residents' homes on the Superfund Site?

Some Established Facts:

The State of Indiana and U.S. EPA have know about the toxic contamination in the Calumet community of East Chicago, Indiana since 1985.

There is evidence that DuPont was investigating their 105 year old, 444 acre site, (the largest chemical and pesticide plant in the world) as early as 1968 and that sever groundwater contamination with Arsenic and Zinc was known as early as 1979...

The City of East Chicago, Indiana investigated high groundwater and Arsenic contamination in the groundwater in 2007 on Ivy Street in what would become Zone 3 of the USS Lead Superfund Site and the results indicated homes with contaminated groundwater in a basement sump above the U.S. EPA's MCL for Arsenic at 39 ppb, 48 ppb and 120 ppb Arsenic dissolved into the groundwater at three homes. (Note: no sediment samples were taken).

The investigation recommendations included: "Coordinate with US EPA on the best way to inform residents on Ivy Street of the arsenic identified in the groundwater. The information provided should incorporate possible health effects from exposure to arsenic (particularly through dermal contact and inhalation) and way to minimize exposure."

Contaminated groundwater is being discharged by sump pumps in residents basements to the surface where recontamination can and does occur. The Superfund Site area is serviced by a combined sewer system...

Basement flooding by contaminated groundwater and/or the combined sewer system frequently occurs within the Superfund Site and the area is currently experiencing a record high groundwater level (1 to 4 feet below the surface on the south side of the Superfund Site) which is also compounded by the near record levels of nearby Lake Michigan which is hydraulically connected to the Calumet Aquifer beneath the Superfund Site.

U.S. EPA has confirmed toxic contaminated Dust in several homes within the Superfund Site but refuses to test adjacent homes that were not part of the current contaminated soil removal actions.

U.S. EPA has confirmed a Drinking Water Quality issue for Lead in drinking Water is several homes within the Superfund Site due to Lead Service Lines and home plumbing containing Lead.

Communities adjacent to the USS Lead Superfund Site that are shown as impacted by the Superfund Site in documents contained within the site's Administrative Record have never been contacted by U.S. EPA – let alone any communication of any risks potential contamination could present to their health.

Where sampling has been done south of the Superfund Site high levels (above 400 ppm Lead) of contamination have been found over the years by the State of Indiana and U.S. EPA but nothing has been done to properly investigate or inform the residents of the communities of Gibson Woods and Hessville in Hammond, Indiana one mile away.

The community has not been involved in the current groundwater investigation by U.S. EPA for the Superfund Site and the monitoring wells are all located either on the City of East Chicago, Indiana or "Responsible Party" properties and sampling and testing **does not include any sediment sampling within the Calumet Aquifer**. In fact the U.S. EPA methodology being used for sampling and testing filters out sediment to determine only what is dissolved within the ground water not what is being transported by it (e.g. Toxic Sediments).

U.S. EPA has methodologies for sampling and testing sediment within a groundwater aquifer they are not being deployed in East Chicago, Indiana in the Calumet Aquifer that flows beneath the Superfund Site. In order to get a complete picture of the contamination and risks involved including its transport and fate these sediments must be properly sampled and analyzed also.

Conclusion:

Perhaps the best way to determine what residents are being exposed to from the groundwater is to sample what's already in their homes –the dust; the groundwater and the sediment it carries through imperfections in foundations and draining into basement sumps; and the potentially toxic residues left when basement flood waters recede or the sediment becomes dry in the winter heating season when humidity drops and forced-air furnaces or heating boilers located in residents basement are in constant operation...?

Perhaps ignoring toxic contaminated sediment within groundwater and having a groundwater monitoring system located on properties who owners who's priorities are fixated on the potential of quick redevelopment instead of having a first priority to ensure a proper and permanent cleanup (as required under the law) might not be protective of people's health living within the USS Lead Superfund Site?

In Total U.S EPA's current actions and historical record in East Chicago, Indiana is ripe for investigation and oversight with respect to proper conduct and violations of the laws, regulation, and rules of the United States of America and State of Indiana and unfortunately the above is just one example of what has taken place in Northwest Indiana and especially in East Chicago, Indiana where what many people consider a toxic crime against humanity has occurred right here in our nation.

Newspaper Article:

From: (b) (6)

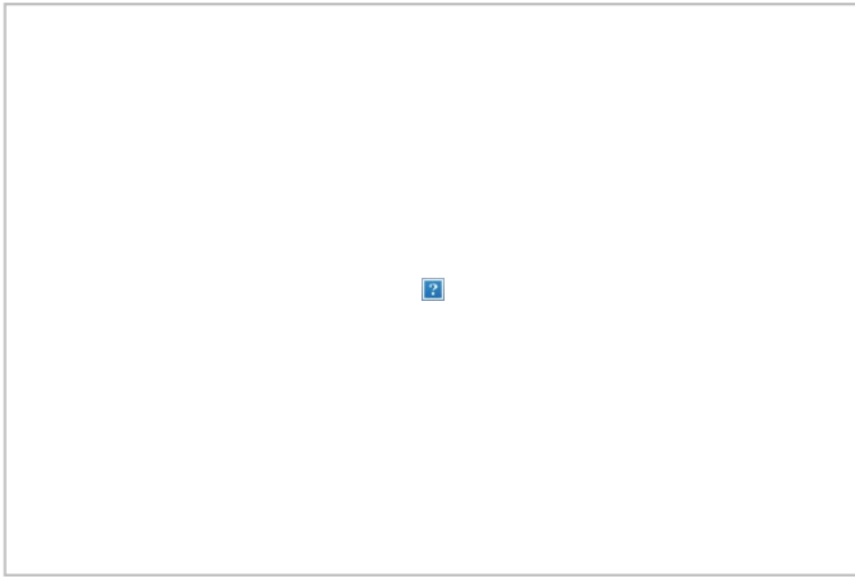
Subject: FW: The Truth Seeps Out in East Chicago...

Hello, this is crazy... There's money to be made! It's Redevelopment Palzooa – who cares if it's properly cleaned up or not! Let the toxic exposures commence... (b) (6)

The story below was published on November 14, 2019 and the [very](#) next day this story was broadcast about the same block of Alexander Street in East Chicago, Indiana: 'Workforce Houses In East Chicago To Be Built On EPA Superfund Site'...!

See: [<https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/workforce-houses-in-east-chicago-to-be-built-on-epa-superfund-site>] and see the DuPont Site news below...

'East Chicago man says EPA has been slow to test the rust-colored sludge in his basement for toxins' by Meredith Colias-Pete, Post-Tribune, November 14, 2019



Photograph: 'Devin Crymes stands on the basement floor of his East Chicago home that recently tested positive for a variety of dangerous toxins. (Suzanne Tennant / Post-Tribune)'

"A rust-colored sludge has been oozing across Devin Crymes' basement in East Chicago.

His three-flat home on the 4900 block of Alexander Avenue is a few blocks from the old Carrie Gosch Elementary, where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency holds community forums on the USS Lead Superfund cleanup.

Even with the close location, he has been unable to get the EPA to test his basement for toxins, he said, despite informal assurances at multiple meetings.

Results from an independent lab in August showed a sludge sample could contain several heavy metals including arsenic. The EPA contacted the lab to question whether the results were skewed, but have done little to come test it themselves, he said.

With potentially toxic sludge seeping across the basement, he feels he may have no choice but to wash it down the sewer drain himself.

"It's like a chemical cocktail that's oozing up," said Crymes, 64, a charter school janitor.

Crymes lives there with his wife, son, two school-aged grandchildren and another tenant. It's been in the family for a few generations. He took it over about 20 years ago after his mother died."



Photograph: 'Devin Crymes goes over the independent lab results he received that revealed a variety of toxins in his basement in East Chicago. (Suzanne Tennant / Post-Tribune)'

"The EPA was provided a detailed timeline and questions, which they were still researching Thursday afternoon, a spokesman said.

"What I can tell you, we have been in contact with the individual. We have arranged a meeting in the near future," EPA spokesman Adrian Palomeque said.

Recently, Crymes put down wood pallets on the basement floor. Laundry machines were located on the other side. After the EPA remediated parts of his yard around two years ago, he noticed more seepage. The sludge has grown in recent months, he said.

"My only option is to take a water hose and wash it down the drain," he said. "It's still oozing up. I'll basically be constantly washing it down the drain."

Larry Davis, a steelworker he met through the local community action group, paid for heavy metal tests at New Bremen, Ohio-based Brookside Laboratories.

The bigger issue was with the sludge, not the seeping water, Brookside Laboratories Environmental Manager Kari Long, who tested it, said.

The results that came back showed high levels of calcium, iron, and manganese. It also reported the presence of antimony, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead and zinc.

One sample came back with 203 mg/kg of arsenic."



Photograph: 'East Chicago resident Devin Crymes asks a question during a public meeting about the U.S.S. Superfund site on Nov. 17, 2018, at the former Carrie Gosch elementary school. (Kyle Telechan/Post-Tribune)'

"Crymes told the EPA at a **November 2018** [<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/ct-ptb-east-chicago-epa-update-st-1118-story.html>] meeting he wanted the water that seeps into his basement tested, knowing that the soil outside his home is contaminated.

Katherine Thomas, an EPA remedial project manager, said then most of the basement testing was in Zone 3, where about half tested showed high levels of lead. Thomas added that she'd get Crymes' information to see if they extend the sampling and can test his basement.

Months later, when Davis again told the EPA about Crymes' basement, in Zone 2, the EPA asked for the lab's results and methodology.

"EPA shares your concerns," Remedial Response Branch Chief Timothy Fischer wrote to Davis on Sept. 27. Fischer told him to have Crymes call them so they could "further assess the conditions in the basement."

"As of the date of this letter, you have not provided EPA with any of the requested information, nor has the owner of any property you investigated contacted EPA."

Davis sent the lab results hours later, according to emails. A month later, Long told him via email they were disputing the results.

A Region 5 EPA representative called her, asking if the iron could have skewed the arsenic results - i.e. a "false positive." The lab used a method specifically to account for it, Long said.

She was expecting iron in the rusty-colored sludge.

"We have a lot of iron in our area," Long said. "To us, the iron should not have been an interference."

The EPA wanted the lab results, but Long went back to work and it slipped her mind. She was surprised, expecting them to call again if they didn't get it.

"That's their job is to help people," she said.

For years, Crymes said he's attended community action group and EPA public meetings. Now, there is now some "black ooze" closer to the basement's entrance, he said.

He needs the city to replace a lead water line, but was told that can't be done until the "sewage" was gone, he said.

When he told them it wasn't sewage, he was told to contact the EPA.

See: [<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/ct-ptb-ec-crimes-st-1115-20191114-euhsjm3nsbcwxnupqwt7jomiay-story.html>] 'East Chicago man says EPA has been slow to test the rust-colored sludge in his basement for toxins' by Meredith Colias-Pete, Post-Tribune, November 14, 2019

[DuPont Site Excerpt]

"Karen Lauerman, president and CEO at LCEA, revealed the evening's biggest piece of news: an investor is looking to transform 400 acres in East Chicago into a 1-million-square-foot building, with the potential for more than \$100 million in investment and 1,000 new jobs. There is also potential for another two buildings on the site, each offering similar investment and job opportunities. Scott Aschoff, co-owner of East Chicago Gateway Partners, is leading the project which is located at the site of the former DuPont/Chemours plant.

"It'll cost about \$26 million to fix the land from an environmental perspective," Aschoff said. "In return, we'll put up 3 million square feet of warehouse over the next several years. We've already lined up our builders, the city's been extremely cooperative in helping us move forward."

Aschoff is working with Milton Reed, principal at Global Consulting Solutions in East Chicago, and the LCEA to keep the community involved in every aspect of the plan.

"This project is almost a redefining of true environmental justice," Reed said. "There are now multiple silos of opportunity for the community to be involved every step of the way."

First Midwest Bank sponsored the evening and their Senior Vice President, Paul Beneturski, addressed the crowd as one of the LCEA's newest board members."

See: [https://nwi.life/article/lake-county-economic-alliance-celebrates-millions-in-investment-hundreds-of-new-jobs-at-economic-update/?utm_source=dvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&fbclid=IwAR3TnvUeJH9lPSwoc6iloXod95a7KQq_dfU9N2vk9u9mE0O1SSxcucRRipg] 'LAKE COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE CELEBRATES MILLIONS IN INVESTMENT, HUNDREDS OF NEW JOBS AT ECONOMIC UPDATE' by Curtis Hankins, NWI.LIFE, November 15, 2019

Note: 127 tons of Arsenic have been quantified on just a quarter of the 444 acre DuPont Site... That's enough to kill everyone in U.S. EPA Region V ten times over (using the ATSDR's minimum lethal dosage for Arsenic) and people are living as close as 210 to 365 feet away from some of the known hot-spots...!

Most of the toxic waste is being left onsite (with large amounts of toxic wastes under the surface of the Calumet aquifer) as part of a RCRA Corrective Action on what is left of the abandoned site that once was the largest pesticide and chemical plant in world and had a 105 year history of dumping toxic waste in the quartz beach sand soils of East Chicago, Indiana -- less than two miles from the Lake Michigan shoreline. The site never had a Final RCRA Permit and was never scored for Superfund and toxic waste disposal on-site was ongoing in an unpermitted dump (the site geology and this land disposal facility cannot meet any current standards for the land disposal of solid wastes under the law) as late as 2014 – 2016 within 1,500 feet of residents' homes within the Superfund Site.

Please help all of the residents of the Calumet community living on the USS Lead Superfund Site get to the truth and equal justice they deserve and desperately need...

Please also consider a broader investigation into U.S. EPA region V's conduct and actions, lack of actions, history of bias towards polluters and "Responsible Parties" and untruthfulness with the residents of East Chicago, Indiana – including lying to residents about the 2109 TSCA permitting of the largest PCB land disposal site on the Great Lakes less than one-half mile from Central High School and the adjacent relocated Carrie Gosch Grade School.

Please feel free to contact me for additional information or details.

Sincerely;

(b) (6) Hebron, Indiana 46341 (b) (6) (b) (6)



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

February 20, 2020

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Hotline Complaint Regarding Potentially Unaddressed Contamination at
USS Lead Superfund Site

FROM: Tina Lovingood, Director *Christina Lovingood*
Land Cleanup and Waste Management Directorate
Office of Audit and Evaluation

TO: Kurt Thiede, Regional Administrator
EPA Region 5

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Inspector General received a hotline complaint from (b) (6), a private citizen from Hebron, Indiana. (b) (6) reported that the EPA did not act upon concerns in the area of the USS Lead Superfund site, including:

1. Requests made by a resident in Zone 2 of the USS Lead Superfund site, located in East Chicago, Indiana, that the EPA test for contaminated material seeping into his basement.
2. Known basement flooding and subsurface intrusion of contaminated ground water and toxic sediments within the USS Lead Superfund site.
3. Known lead contamination in the communities of Gibson Woods and Hessville in Hammond, Indiana, located one mile south of the USS Lead Superfund site.

(b) (6) also stated in the complaint that:

4. Several homes throughout the USS Lead Superfund site have been confirmed as having contaminated dust.

This hotline complaint was referred to the OIG's Office of Audit and Evaluation for review because our ongoing risk communication assignment, Project No. OA&E-FY19-0031, included the USS Lead Superfund site. However, the concerns reported by (b) (6) fall outside the scope of that assignment. We are therefore referring the complaint to Region 5.

Based on the risk to human health if (b) (6) concerns are substantiated, the Office of Audit and Evaluation requests that Region 5 respond to the following concerns and questions:

1. We understand that (b) (6) a resident living in Zone 2 at (b) (6) East Chicago, requested that EPA Region 5 test the "sludge" in (b) (6) basement. According to (b) (6) hotline complaint and as reported in the local news media, at a November 17, 2018 public meeting, (b) (6) asked, for the third time, that the EPA test (b) (6) basement seepage. However, according to the complaint, the EPA did not take action, and the individual sought independent testing.

Another concerned individual sent the EPA the test results from (b) (6) basement, which showed that the arsenic level was 203 parts per million, well above the EPA's cleanup level of 26 parts per million for arsenic in soil at the USS Lead Superfund Site. However, according to the complaint, it took a month before the EPA responded. (b) (6) stated that young children live in (b) (6) home and may be more sensitive to contamination.

- a. How has the EPA addressed the independent lab sampling results provided by the resident?
 - b. If the sampling results are accurate and there is a high level of arsenic or other harmful contaminants present, what action is the EPA taking to address the basement seepage?
 - c. Has the EPA considered the presence of young children living in this home in its response to concerns raised at this address, and how?
2. We understand that members of the community informed EPA Region 5 of their concerns related to subsurface intrusion of toxic contaminated ground water and basement flooding within the USS Lead Superfund site on multiple occasions, including at EPA public meetings and by email, but (b) (6) hotline complaint stated that the EPA is not investigating those concerns.
 - a. Has the EPA sampled sediment in the ground water for contamination, including sediment in the Calumet Aquifer? How is the EPA addressing residential properties within the USS Lead Superfund site that are known to experience basement flooding or subsurface intrusion of contaminated ground water and toxic sediments, or both? Summarize the content and communication methods used to disseminate information to the public regarding basement seepage.
 - b. Does the EPA know whether its remedial and removal activities had any impact on the ground water flow and hydrologic patterns in and around the USS Lead Superfund site? If so, what was the impact?
 - c. If addressing concerns related to the subsurface intrusion of toxic contaminated ground water and basement flooding is outside the EPA's scope of activities and authorities at the USS Lead Superfund site, are there any additional actions that the EPA can take at this site to protect human health and the environment?
 - d. Based on its multiyear presence in the East Chicago community, what resources and information can the EPA share with community members to assist them in responding to and better addressing basement flooding and other related issues?
3. (b) (6) hotline complaint alleged that the State of Indiana and the EPA found lead contamination at levels above 400 parts per million in the soil in the Gibson Woods and Hessville communities near the USS Lead Superfund site. However, (b) (6) alleged that nothing has been done to properly investigate or inform the residents of the Gibson Woods and Hessville communities.
 - a. Has the EPA or Indiana tested soils in the area south of the USS Lead Superfund site that borders or includes Gibson Woods and Hessville?

- b. If soil sampling occurred, what are the dates and results of the soil samples, and has the EPA or Indiana made this information publicly available?
 - c. If soil sampling occurred, have any nearby residents been notified of the results of the soil sampling?
 - d. Has the EPA communicated whether and at what level there may be human health or environmental risks to nearby residents?
4. In his hotline complaint, (b) (6) stated that several homes throughout the USS Lead Superfund site have been confirmed as having toxic contaminated dust.
- a. Has the EPA confirmed whether toxic contaminated dust continues to exist in homes within the USS Lead Superfund site?
 - b. If so, what determination has the EPA made about testing homes adjacent to, but not part of, the areas with current soil removal or remedial actions?

The OIG requests that you provide a written response on the actions taken or planned to address the concerns listed above within 30 days of this letter, by March 23, 2020. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (202) 566-2906 or lovingood.tina@epa.gov; or Christine El-Zoghbi, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation, at (202) 566-2063 or el-zoghbi.christine@epa.gov.

Attachment (1)—Contains Personally Identifiable Information

cc: Cheryl Newton, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 5
Timothy Fischer, Branch Chief, Region 5
Kevin Adler, Section Chief, Region 5
Janet Pope, Community Involvement Coordinator, Region 5
Charles Rodriguez, Community Involvement Coordinator, Region 5
Leslie Patterson, Remedial Project Manager, Region 5
Sarah Rolfes, Remedial Project Manager, Region 5
Eric Levy, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Region 5
Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General
Charles J. Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
Edward S. Shields, Associate Deputy Inspector General
Eric Hanger, Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General
Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Christine El-Zoghbi, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Richard Eyermann, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Kathlene Butler, Acting Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Rashmi Bartlett, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

Collier, Morgan

From: Trynosky, Jill
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 1:19 PM
To: Collier, Morgan
Subject: FW: Request to share your information along with concerns related to waste material in your basement

From: Trynosky, Jill
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 1:18 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Lovingood, Christina <Lovingood.Tina@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request to share your information along with concerns related to waste material in your basement

Thank you very much, (b) (6).

We appreciate your response.

Sincerely,
Jill Trynosky

Jill Trynosky
Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Audit and Evaluation, Office of Inspector General
email: trynosky.jill@epa.gov
telephone: (202) 566-2718
website: www.epa.gov/oig

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From: (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2019 3:04 AM
To: Trynosky, Jill <Trynosky.Jill@epa.gov>
Cc: Lovingood, Christina <Lovingood.Tina@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Request to share your information along with concerns related to waste material in your basement

I have no problem with you sharing my information, thanks.

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From: Trynosky, Jill <Trynosky.Jill@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 3:03:16 PM
To: (b) (6)

Cc: Lovinggood, Christina <Lovinggood.Tina@epa.gov>

Subject: Request to share your information along with concerns related to waste material in your basement

Dear (b) (6)

Good afternoon. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Inspector General (EPA OIG) recently received a hotline complaint about EPA Region 5's response to waste material leaking (or seeping) into the basement of your residence, located within Zone 2 of the USS Lead Superfund Site in East Chicago, Indiana.

The EPA OIG risk communication site team also heard from you regarding this issue during our visit to East Chicago in June.

Although EPA Region 5 may already have your contact information, do you have any concerns about the OIG sharing your name, address, or the hotline complaint regarding waste material leaking into the basement of your residence?

Please let me know.

If you have any questions and cannot reach me, please contact Tina Lovinggood, Director of Land Cleanup and Waste Management Program Evaluations at 202-566-2906 or lovinggood.tina@epa.gov.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jill Trynosky

Jill Trynosky
Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Audit and Evaluation, Office of Inspector General
email: trynosky.jill@epa.gov
telephone: (202) 566-2718
website: www.epa.gov/oig

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